

Weekly National Intelligencer.

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THE WEEKLY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER

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TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1854.

THE RIGHTS OF WAR.

The rights, immunities, and liabilities attaching to nations in a state of war, and under the conditions of war—to neutrals as well as to belligerents—have been the subjects of discussion from time to time for a century; and the progress of ideas has been marked by nothing more in accordance with the benign spirit of the age than the ameliorations which have grown up in the usages of grim-visaged war. It was because the public speech lately made in London by our Minister, Mr. BUCHANAN, was in such harmony with the spirit of these ameliorations, as well as with the character of a minister of peace, that his speech was read with such general approval by his countrymen at home; and no part of it we thought had given more satisfaction or was more in concert with an enlightened philanthropy than his striking reference to the practice of *privateering*. We reproduce the passage for the pleasure of the reader:

"The time will arrive when war against private property upon the ocean will be actively proscribed by all civilized nations, as it has already been upon land, and when the gallant commanders of the navies of the world will esteem it as good a disgrace to rob a peaceful merchant vessel upon the sea as the general of an army would now do to plunder the private house of an unoffending citizen."

Having some recollection of the aggravation which this practice of privateering imparts to the sufficiently cruel necessities of war, and long taught by discussion to regard it as an unnecessary and demoralizing evil, we observe with regret that a writer, of much ability we admit, has, in the *Union* of yesterday, taken decided ground against the doctrine advanced by Mr. BUCHANAN. We notice the article, not for the purpose of any extended remark on it, nor yet merely to express our regret at seeing views so retrograding put forth through the Government journal, but chiefly to mark the course of public discussion on a point of great import.

When the above remarks were prepared for our Daily paper, we were not aware that we were soon to see a kindred doctrine, and a step even in advance of it, proposed in Congress; for such, in substance, was the drift of the motion, if we understand it, made in the Senate on Monday by an honorable member from Louisiana. We did not hear, and have not yet had an opportunity to read, the speech which the eloquent member delivered in favor of clothing the President with the power, at his discretion, of suspending the operation of our neutrality laws; that is, virtually, it strikes us, of conferring on the Executive the power of placing the country in a state of war with a foreign nation. With all difference, this seems to us a very questionable measure. A similar power has been exercised by the Executive, we all know, at no remote period, and a bloody foreign war, commenced without the authority of law, was the consequence; but whether it be wise or prudent to confer by express statute so critical a discretion on the President appears to us, at first blush, extremely problematical. But we must wait the action of the able committee of the Senate to which the delicate matter has been referred before it is open to full comment.

FROM CHINA.

A letter dated at Shanghai on the 13th of February says: "The Imperialists have not retaken Shanghai, and there is little prospect that the force before the city can retake it, as the besieged are well provisioned, and have access to supplies of any nature at the market prices. The Russian steamer *Vostok* has arrived from Nangassaki with despatches from the Russian Admiral for the mail, and has returned. It is reported that a commercial arrangement, generally advantageous, has been formed with Russia with Japan, to be operative in a year. We do not believe the rumor, as we do not hear that the Russian squadron has gone to Jeddo, and at the capital city only it is probable that any such arrangement could be made."

SEIZURE OF A SLAVER.

The brig *Glamorgan*, of New York, from Congo river, coast of Africa, March 11, arrived at Boston on Friday in charge of Lieut. JOHN DOWNS, of the U. S. Navy, she having been seized by the United States brig *Perry*, on suspicion of being a slaver, and sent home for trial. Her captain, Casper Kehrman, a native of Bremen, and two seamen, were brought home, and were taken in custody by the United States marshal. The Boston Courier gives the following account of her capture:

"When first seen by the *Perry* the *Glamorgan* was supposed to be an English man-of-war brig, and the *Perry* bore down to speak her. Finding that she refused to recognize the signals made by Capt. Pack, of the *Perry*, suspicions were aroused, and all sail was made on board the latter to overtake her. At night standing sails were got up by the *Perry*, and next morning the *Glamorgan* was discovered, hauled down. A calm succeeding, and the *Perry* being almost motionless, Lieut. DOWNS was ordered to chase her in a boat. Taking five men with him, well armed, he started in pursuit, the *Perry* following as fast as the wind would permit, and after a long and hard pull got up with her, not, however, until a shot had been fired over the boat. Lieut. DOWNS immediately boarded her, and asked to look at the ship's papers, which were found to be correct. He then ordered the hatches to be taken off, which the captain seemed unwilling to permit, and, upon the command being repeated, the captain observed that he might as well admit that the vessel had been fitted out for a slaving expedition. The *Perry* came up and took possession of the brig. She had on board a large quantity of water, farina, and the usual implements of slave traffic.

"The *Glamorgan* is a fast sailing Baltimore clipper brig of 150 tons, has a slave deck, and is owned in New York."

Companies D, G, I, and K, of the Third Artillery, landed at old Point Comfort by the *Falcon* on her last intended trip to Aspinwall, will be taken up by the Illinois on her next trip to the Isthmus, starting from New York on the 5th of May.

"FOUR YEARS OF FRAUD vs. ONE OF INTEGRITY."

Such is the heading, in capitals, of a paragraph in the Government paper of the 2d instant, throwing out, in a reckless wholesale generalization, the often refuted specific calumnies against the administration of one who quitted the Presidency with unsullied honor, and as generally esteemed by the men, of all parties, whose esteem is worth having, as any of his predecessors since the days of WASHINGTON.

One of the "series of monster frauds" of which the administration of Mr. FILLMORE has been accused, and which for months was trumpeted forth in all the Democratic papers of the Union, with the *Union* here at their head, is "the case of Alexander Ramsey." The charges against him were of so monstrous a character that it was thought necessary to appoint commissioners, and cut out for them the most unpleasant job of travelling to St. Paul, in the Territory of Minnesota, to investigate the charges. The testimony taken by the Commissioner was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, and the report of that committee upon it, which was "submitted, considered, and agreed to" on the 24th of February last, contains the following honorable tribute to the capacity and integrity of the man upon whose character had been heaped every opprobrious epithet which party ingenuity and industry could invent or find:

"That they have carefully examined all the testimony taken by the commissioners during nearly three months which they were in session at St. Paul, in the Territory of Minnesota, and have arrived at the conclusion that the conduct of Governor Ramsey was not only free from blame, but highly commendable and meritorious. Not one of the charges preferred against him has been sustained by the testimony. On the contrary, the witnesses of the complainants themselves, in almost every instance, have negatived them; proving, conclusively, that he neither violated the stipulations of the treaties, as understood by the parties to them, nor was governed in his conduct by motives other than such as entitle him to commendation both as a man and an officer."

"In the disbursement of the funds arising under the treaties he acted in accordance with the understanding between the commissioners who negotiated them, the Indians, and the traders for whom provision had been made. The payments of the moneys was made by him under the direction of and in strict accordance with the views and instructions of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs."

How many of "the reckless calumniators" of Mr. RAMSEY and of Mr. FILLMORE have published this plain, fair, and complete acquittal of these gentlemen of all the infamous charges, eagerly seized upon and repeated by them, with greater and fouler exaggeration at every repetition, in their respective circles of influence? Why, the charges against the integrity of Mr. RAMSEY were reiterated with such minute circumstantiality of detail that even the best friends of that gentleman, unacquainted with the history of his official course, were deterred from attempting his defence; and we owe it entirely to the over-anxiety of his political enemies to convict him that a commission was appointed to investigate his official conduct.

Another of the "monster frauds" which this sweeping denunciation of "the Whig Administration" is no doubt intended to include was the "Galphin claim," so called—notwithstanding the irresistible evidence put before the public, officially and otherwise, that this claim had been allowed as valid by the Democratic Administration under Mr. POLK, notwithstanding the proofs adduced that the State of Georgia had recognised the claim of interest, and that the United States, in assuming the debt, stood *ipso facto* in the place of Georgia, and were as much bound to pay the interest as to pay the principal. But it happened that the gentleman who had been for many years the agent of the claimants had been selected by General TAYLOR as one of his Cabinet. This was enough for "the reckless calumniators" to furnish ground for "implicating some of the most distinguished Whigs in the country" in the "monstrous frauds" begun and carried through all their forms under a Democratic Administration, and only "consummated" under that of the Whigs as a matter in which they had nothing to do but to consummate.

Another of the "monster frauds" charged to Mr. FILLMORE is that of the "Gardner case," though it has been incontestably proved that the moment the first rumor reached his ears that suspicion attached to the claim he instituted a searching inquiry, sent commissioners to Mexico, and ordered a prosecution of the individual accused. It is notorious that the trial of that individual occupied the time of the Criminal Court here more closely and laboriously than any case that had ever been brought before it; that the first jury could not agree; that he was tried a second time, with the added testimony of a second commission of inquiry; and that, when the last jury brought in their verdict of "guilty," the man committed suicide.

These and similar things considered, we agree with the Government paper most heartily that "the historian, when he comes to write of the last five years, will be appalled at the complacent audacity with which the truth has been sacrificed by an unscrupulous party."

FROM HAVANA.

The leading news from Havana to the 28th ult. consists of proclamations of pardon, through the Captain-General, addressed from the Queen to certain offending subjects, whose passions and ill advice have led them to violate the laws of their faithful Queen.

1st. A general amnesty is decreed to all those who have taken part, directly or indirectly, in any of the conspiracies, rebellions, or insurrections instigated by foreigners with the view of creating disturbances or committing any other political transgressions of law in Cuba.

2d. This pardon only applies to political offenses.

3d. The amnesty is made general for all the provinces in Spain.

CHINESE EMIGRATION TO CALIFORNIA.—The last California papers report a revival of the Chinese immigration into that State. A Dutch ship, the *Isis*, had just arrived at San Francisco, with nearly five hundred Chinamen on board, and reported three other vessels at Hong Kong taking in passengers when she sailed. Two ships had already left previous to the *Isis* with full complements of passengers.

REMOVAL OF CANAL OFFICERS.—It is stated that the Board of Public Works will meet on the 3d day of June for the election of Directors and other officers of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

PARTIES IN IOWA.

The *Union* of Saturday claims a triumph for the Democracy in Iowa at the recent April election in that State, and more than hints that the result was an endorsement of the Nebraska question. We do not often follow our neighbor to far-off localities for the rectification of its errors, but a friend, who feels desirous that the political character of the State of Iowa should not be misunderstood here at the seat of Government, furnishes us with the following facts in disproof of this statement of the *Union* touching the politics of that rising young member of the Confederacy.

The *Union* admits, and it is a well-known fact, that the Whigs had no candidate for the only State officer to be elected at that election. The Nebraska question was not even a side issue in the contest, and did not figure one way or the other in the canvass. The *Union's* article says:

"Among the most pleasing incidents of this election which have come to our knowledge is that relating to the county of Linn, which has heretofore given a Democratic majority of from twenty-five to seventy-five. In this county, then, the Democratic candidate, received a majority of one hundred and seventy, being more than double the usual Democratic majority."

Now, the two principal towns in Linn county are Marion and Cedar Rapids, the two containing about twenty-five hundred inhabitants, and we understand there are not twenty men in the two towns who are not openly opposed to the Nebraska bill in its present shape. Indeed, a gentleman from that quarter, recently in this city, declared that there were only two "defenders of the faith" in those towns, being no less personages than the two Postmasters.

Under this state of things, if the *Union* finds "the most pleasing incidents" in the result of Linn county, how does it like the incident in Scott county, where the Democracy have a majority of 200, and at the recent election gave Stewart, the Independent candidate, 350 majority? Was the Nebraska question an issue in Scott county? We inquire for information. It is worse than useless to claim that this question was among the issues of that campaign. The Democratic papers of Iowa do not so claim it. This unsuccessful double of the *Union* may do to circulate, but the next August election in Iowa will tend somewhat to open the eyes of the *Union* about the "soundest Democratic free State on the subject of the compromises of the Constitution." We are proud to say that Iowa is sound on the compromises of the country, and unwilling that any of them should be disturbed.

CASES OF JOHN CHARLES GARDINER.

In the Criminal Court of the District of Columbia.

MONDAY, MAY 1, 1854.

At the opening of the Court this morning the District Attorney stated that this was the day fixed for the trial of the case of the United States against JOHN CHARLES GARDINER, being the indictment for perjury, and standing No. 12 on the docket. The witnesses for the United States were called. Some answered, and the District Attorney stated that the others were expected. Messrs. BRADLEY and CARLISLE, being engaged in the Circuit Court, did not come into Court till about 2½ o'clock, when the District Attorney again brought up the case.

Mr. BRADLEY stated that the counsel for the defendant were taken by surprise at finding that the United States expected to try the indictment for perjury to-day. They had been under the impression that this day was fixed for the case of false swearing, in which case they had given notice that they would file a demurrer, which stands before this case. They were willing to take up the demurrer, and when the case for false swearing should be disposed of the other case could be taken up.

The Court remarked that it recollected that when the cases of John Charles Gardiner were last brought to its notice Mr. FENDALL stated that he proposed to try the indictment for perjury first. This day was fixed for that case. The delay till this day was against the protestations, or at least earnest objection, of the counsel for the United States.

Mr. CARLISLE said his impression had been, like that of his colleague, that this day was fixed for the other case. He certainly could not try the perjury case to-day, being engaged in the Circuit Court; and Mr. BRADLEY had left of absence from that Court in order to attend the Supreme Court.

Mr. FENDALL expressed his surprise that the counsel for the defendant should be under any misapprehension as to the particular case fixed for to-day. When the subject was last before the Court he distinctly announced the purpose of the prosecution to try the perjury case first, and gave some reasons for doing so. He stated on that occasion that the field of evidence to be travelled over in the perjury would probably be less extensive than in the false swearing cases; that though some of the assignments in the perjury case would be maintained by a portion of the same evidence as that which would be offered in the other case, yet, on the whole, the trial of the perjury case would be shorter; that, in the event of a conviction, the Government might perhaps not deem it necessary to press the other indictment; and that there was therefore a manifest convenience in trying the perjury case first.

As to the demurrer to the indictment for false swearing, the counsel for the United States had, on the occasion referred to, expressed their willingness to discuss it on any day that might be named by the opposite counsel; but none had been suggested. The Court would find on the docket for June term, 1852, an entry to the effect that a demurrer to that indictment had been filed and overruled on the same day on which the demurrer in the case of George A. Gardner was overruled. There had probably been some agreement, afterwards forgotten, that the decision of the Court on the demurrer which had been argued should apply to the other indictment under the same statute. If so, however, it was overlooked on all sides, when the defendant's counsel, some weeks ago, stated that they desired to the indictment to the indictment for false swearing on the same grounds as those assigned for the demurrer to the indictment against George A. Gardner, and on the additional ground that the oath was taken before a notary public.

Neither the Court nor the defendant's counsel had any recollection that there had been a demurrer in the case. The District Attorney said he was willing that the indictment in the false swearing case should be open to demurrer, and to take it up when the perjury case was disposed of. But the perjury case was fixed for this day. The United States had detained some witnesses and brought them here at great expense and inconvenience, and he must insist on the case being disposed of in some way. The counsel for the defendant had apprised him that they thought they had the right to try him in his absence. This, the District Attorney said, was the question to be first settled by the Court. He proposed calling the defendant in both the cases. The Court would then know whether he is here or not.

Messrs. BRADLEY and CARLISLE objected to this course. Some discussion ensued, in the course of which the District Attorney stated that rumors had reached him, from several quarters, that the defendant had gone away, and would not stand his trial; and Mr. CARLISLE, on the other hand, stated that he and his colleague had been informed by friends of the defendant that he did mean to appear and stand his trial. Mr. C. supposed that the reason why he was not here to-day was that he knew his case could not be tried in consequence of the engagements of his counsel elsewhere.

The Court decided that in any case in which, if there were a conviction, the sentence by law would be imprisonment, the Court would require the defendant to be present, and would not ever allow a motion relating to it to be argued in his absence. Such too had been the practice of the Circuit Court. The United States have a right to call the defendant, when they think it to be here, and, if he does not answer, to forfeit his recognizance. If he should appear at any time during the term, the Court have the power by law to strike out the forfeiture.

John Charles Gardiner was then called, and did not answer. The usual proclamation was made, and his recognizances in both cases were forfeited.

AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION.

Our last notice of the proceedings of the Association came up to the close of the meetings on Friday afternoon. The Sections met again at half-past seven the same evening in general meeting, when Professor B. STRIMLING, Jr. read a paper on the question as to whether antitric is the coke of bituminous coal?

Lieut. GILLISS read a paper on earthquakes in Chili.

FIFTH DAY.

Saturday being deemed too inclement for the intended trip to Mount Vernon, the Association met and conducted business as usual. Professor FRANKLIN BACHE, who was appointed on Friday as Chairman of Section A for the following meeting, took the chair accordingly on Saturday.

The following are among the articles read in Section A: An account of a storm that passed over Connecticut, August 1, 1851, by Prof. JOHN BROCKLESBY.

On the distribution of temperature in and near the Gulf Stream, of the coast of the United States, from observations made in the Coast Survey, by A. D. BACHE, Superintendent Coast Survey.

Results of some investigations respecting the double comet of 1811, by Prof. LEBLANC, of the National Observatory.

Suggestion relative to the observation of the annular eclipse of the sun of May 29, 1854, by STEPHEN ALEXANDER.

In Section B, over which Professor Wm. B. ROGERS presided, the following were among the papers read, viz:

A sketch of the general geological structure of country in connection with the United States Boundary Commission, by C. C. PARKY, M.D., being a collection of all the collections and observations made under the direction of Lieut. Col. Emory during the past five years.

On the geological formation of the country along the line of the boundary survey, based upon the examination of Dr. Perry, made under the order of Maj. Emory, by JAMES HALL.

On the chemical relations of odors, and their employment as tests, by GEO. C. SCHLEFFER.

Life in its physical aspects, by CHAS. GIBBARD.

The evening Session was held in general meeting, when the Association listened to a eulogium on the late eminent and able astronomer and mathematician, SEAN C. WALKER, by Prof. B. A. GOULD, of Cambridge, Mass.

The following are the gentlemen to whom the Association have conferred the duty of taking measures for the observation of the annular eclipse on the 26th of May next, viz:

Professors Bache, Peirce, Alexander, Keely, Seall, Loomis, Chauvenet, Bond, Gibbs, Coffin; Lieut. Davis, Maury, Henry; Doctors Gould, Leconte; Messrs. Frazer, Barnard, Mitchell, and Barstow.

The Association on Monday carried out its purpose of making a visit to Mount Vernon, on board the steamer *George Washington*. At the White House the standing committee had provided a collation, to which we heard ample justice was done by the party. The association did not go ashore at Alexandria, and thus its citizens missed the pleasure of exercising their well-known hospitality.

FIFTH DAY.

Tuesday morning the Association came to order at 10 o'clock, in general meeting, Prof. J. D. DANA in the chair.

Communication was received from President WAXLAND, of Brown University, and the city of Providence, inviting the association to make that city the place of its next annual meeting. The invitation from the Faculty of Georgetown College was respectfully declined. (We believe there is a probability the declaration will be reconsidered.)

The names of several gentlemen were offered as candidates for membership. After the general meeting of this evening it was determined to accept the invitation of W. W. CONCORDIA, Esq., to visit him at his mansion.

The Association then divided into sections. In Section A a paper was read by Prof. NORRIS on comets.

The next paper was on the distribution of temperature in and near the Gulf Stream, off the coast of the United States, from observations made in the Coast Survey, by A. D. BACHE.

This was illustrated by a number of ingenious charts, drawn to exhibit the varying temperatures of the sea at regular distances from the coast to about four hundred miles eastward in the Atlantic. Many interesting facts were developed, and some considerable approach made towards discovering the laws to which these variations of temperature are subject. Some remarks were made on the form of the floor or the bottom of the ocean, going to show that along our coast some extraordinary depressions exist. For instance, on the seaward line abreast of Charleston, from the shore to sixty miles out, the depth increases pretty gradually, till at that distance it has acquired a depth of one hundred fathoms. But it soon decreases, and is only about fifty fathoms at a distance of eighty miles out. The ocean-bottom is more than six hundred and fifty fathoms from the surface. This continues forward less than ten miles, when the depth suddenly decreases to more than three hundred and fifty fathoms, which so goes on only a few miles, when it again deepens to about five hundred fathoms, with subsequent fluctuations. There is therefore a submerged mountain peak or ridge between these points of a truly remarkable character. The differences in the temperature vary almost precisely according to the change of contour of the bottom, showing that the temperature at great depths is more modified by the proximity of the coast's bed. It appears that the Gulf Stream, whilst certainly not superficial, does not run to the bottom, off Cape Florida, at twelve hundred fathoms, the water in summer is of a temperature of 38° Fahrenheit, a degree below the average winter temperature much further north.

Lieut. MAURY followed Prof. Bache in a paper on the same general subject, but having regard to the surface rather than the depths of the stream. He showed that the stream varies its course according to the season, having a more southerly sweep in winter. The stream is more rapid off Cape Hatteras than Cape Canaveral, and with which it is so plentifully beset on the western side. This Lieut. Maury accounted for by supposing the stream stands above the general level of the ocean, with its highest point in the centre or axis of the stream, and sloping off like the roof of a house each side. This stream is not a mere surface current, but a deep-seated one, and at the same time is the prolific parent of fogs, if not of storms also. At all events, storms that arise on the coast of Africa trailing westward fall into its influence and sweep around its circuit. It was in this stream that the unhappy San Francisco was on the fatal 24th December, and it was along its eastward current that the ship drifted. The Gulf stream, notwithstanding its magnitude, is asserted by Lieut. Maury as being sensibly affected by the discharge of the waters in winter from the Chesapeake, Delaware, and Hudson.

The time for a temporary adjournment having arrived, the Section took a recess of about three-quarters of an hour. In the course of the session the President of the United States and the Secretary of War entered the Section and remained a short time. The delegation of Sac and Fox and Kickapoo Indians that arrived hither on Monday evening from the Upper Missouri also gave a look in upon the proceedings of the learned pair-faces. They remained about a quarter of an hour. The Sac and Foxes were decked in their brightest blankets, with spear in hand and every thing point device. The Kickapoo were in ordinary citizen dress.

In Section B some of the subjects allotted for the day were submitted by the authors of the papers respectively. The only one we were able to attend was that by Dr. J. L. SMITH on meteoric stones.

GENERAL MEETING.

At two o'clock the Association met in general meeting, when it was, on recommendation of the standing committee, put and carried that the invitation to meet next year at Providence, Rhode Island, be complied with; also, that the day of meeting be the third Wednesday in August, 1855.

The Standing Committee also made the nominations for officers for the ensuing year, all of which were elected. They are as follows:

Professor TORNEY, President.

Dr. WOLCOTT GREEN, General Secretary.

Dr. ELWYN, Treasurer.

Several new members proposed were also admitted.

The business of the evening session, at half-past 7 o'clock, is to listen to a paper from Dr. ROBERT HARR.

In section A a paper on the different astronomical methods of determining the longitude, by Lieut. C. H. DAVIS, was read by Prof. LOVERING.

Mr. BOND read a paper on the determination of the longitude of the Observatory at Cambridge from the chronometric expeditions of the Coast Survey.

This gave rise to numerous questions from members and many elucidations from Mr. Bond.

Then followed the longitude of America; determined by moon culminations, by Prof. B. Peirce.

Prof. PEIRCE commenced by apologizing for the title of his paper, which referred to no particular place, but to the character of the position the science of this country was compelled to assume by the perseverance of our Government in trying us to a little island across the ocean, and making us subservient, as it were, to the Observatory of Greenwich. After a most discriminating and learned analysis of the various plans of finding longitude, Prof. Peirce concluded that the most accurate yet known is that by the chronometric method.

Much interest was elicited by the description of a new instrument for facilitating the projection of great circle routes in charts, and enabling by inspection the course and distance, by Prof. W. CHAUVENET.

It is a wonder of simplicity and efficiency. Prof. Peirce complimented Prof. Chauvenet in having so well supplied what he himself had long tried to invent, but in vain.

The section then adjourned.

The meeting, at half-past 7 o'clock on Tuesday evening, was occupied in hearing an address from Dr. ROBERT HARR on the subject of storms. Afterwards the association complied with the invitation of W. W. CONCORDIA, Esq., and visited him at his residence.

SIXTH DAY.

The sections met at 10 o'clock A. M., from their adjournment yesterday, and commenced business. Section A was presided over by Lieut. MAURY, and Section B by Prof. W. B. ROGERS. In Section A a proposition was offered, and carried, that the section should be divided into two sub-sections, the first being on astronomy and the second on meteorology and technology.

The general meeting adjourned till next again at half-past 7 o'clock, and received the report of the committee on the revision of the constitution.

GENERAL MEETING.

The association was then called to order in general meeting, Prof. DANA in the chair. On the recommendation of the Standing Committee, Section A was subdivided into two sub-sections; the first being on astronomy and the second on meteorology and technology.

The sections then resumed their sittings, with Section A sub-divided; the third section being presided over by Lieut. Col. W. B. EMORY.

In Section B a paper was read from Lieut. J. M. GILLISS on the Astronomical Expedition to Chili. After it had been read, on motion of Lieut. CORFIS, it was agreed that the section suggest the standing committee to recommend the association to acknowledge its sense of the liberality and zeal of the Chilean Government in behalf of astronomical science.

Prof. GOULD read a paper of Lieut. SCOTT's on the tidal currents around Long Island.

Mr. G. C. SCHLEFFER described a new form of electrical machine, in which a succession of sparks, or continuation of electrical excitement, could be kept up indefinitely with the most trifling exertion of power. It seems to be infinitely more valuable.

Notes on a new electro-chronometric method, by Dr. WOLCOTT H. GIBBS, was read by Lieut. HUNT.

The discussion of the subject was highly interesting, and showed that divisions of time may be recorded to perhaps the two-thousandth part of a second. This precision is to be looked for by the use of the human senses as the media of observation, but through self-registering instruments, which are free from "personal equations" and the liabilities to error from the circumstances attendant on the phenomenon of vision.

Lieut. HUNT read a description of the United States Coast Survey, showing the manner in which the base line, by comparisons of results of the labors of various base-line determinations in different countries, it is claimed that, for accuracy and expedition united, none yet approach that of the Coast Survey. The methods used are such as to give linear results comparatively more precise than any other.

An account of the Coast Survey and the Shelby (Kentucky) College Equatorial, by Prof. GOULD, Jr., and Prof. JOS. WINLOCK. This instrument appears to be one of unusual excellence. Its object-glass is nearly eight inches in diameter, and is of singular if not unequalled fame for clearness and freedom from air-bubbles and other imperfections.

Prof. PEIRCE bore testimony to the excellence of this glass, and thought it had no superior in the world. The liberality of Shelby College in permitting its transfer from place to place for the purposes of science merits the acknowledgment of the section.

Prof. MAURY thought so beautiful a glass would offer superior opportunities for daguerreotyping the moon. He had recently examined a daguerreotype of that luminary by Whipple, of Boston, which had surprised him for its minuteness of delineation. In particular he noted the representation of a conical mountain, beautifully shown, and making suggestions even better than are derivable from the telescope.

Prof. PEIRCE, in further remarking on the superiority of the Shelby College Equatorial, said that it had been submitted to Prof. AGASSIS, who had told him (Prof. Peirce) that it exhibited objects in the moon (he would not say what they were) never observed before.

The next paper was by Lieut. MAURY on the basis of the Atlantic. Some interesting facts were developed. Thus, in sounding for the bottom of the deep ocean, the line will always run out after the lead or weight has reached the bottom. This is undoubtedly owing to strong currents at those depths. Reference was made to the experiment of Lieut. BERRYMAN in sounding across the Atlantic, with a view to ascertain the practicability of a submarine telegraph. Lieut. Maury thinks the sea shallower further north than where this line of soundings was made, and better for the purpose. North of the banks of Newfoundland the depth was only about two miles, and the bottom was of sand and shells.

Prof. BACHE said the bottom at these depths may be said to consist of insubstantial mud. It was remarkable that the water from these depths did now show the presence of infusoria.

Prof. PEIRCE remarked that when a quantity of the earthy matter at the bed of the ocean was shown to Prof. AGASSIS, and pronounced to contain nothing noteworthy, he replied, "Can you see nothing here? Do you not perceive on the surface of the earth, and in the air, and not on the other proves that the depths wherein they laid were undisturbed."

The next paper read was by Lieut. HUNT, on the nature of forces. This paper was very abstruse, involving questions in the highest department of the mathematics. The text paper was by the young and able contributor of the session, and officer of the navy, Mr. O. C. BACON, on method of observing at sea for the determination of the latitude, longitude, and variations of the compass. It was applauded by the section.

The concluding paper was by Commander GLYNN, U. S. N., on the transportability of the ocean. The subject was treated by this gentleman in a most agreeable and happy manner, combining the spirit of scientific investigation with the characteristic outspokenness of the sailor. Commander Glynn tested the lowest depth of the sea at which objects are visible from the surface, and found it twenty-five fathoms, and then in the most favorable circumstances. Whilst it was true that the sea water had been most transparent where the temperature of the ocean was highest, (thus twenty-five fathoms at 89° of Fahrenheit,) still he attributed this to the fact that this spot (in the Pacific ocean) was freest from admixture with the comparatively turbid waters of the great rivers of the east and northeast of Asia. Near Cape Horn the depth of vision is about ten fathoms.

Prof. BACHE thought the subject introduced by Com. Glynn highly interesting.

And Prof. FRANKLIN hoped it would be published among the proceedings of the meeting.